

## **Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

### **September 4, 2013**

Present: Philip Ailiff, Neal Baxter, Kathleen Mayell, Jason Lord, Donna Hemp, Dan Herber, Peter Janelle, Jacqueline Knight, Don Ostrom, Julia Tabbut; Mackenzie Turner, Sarah Stewart, Rose Ryan, Gina Mitteco, Julie Danzl, Mike Mechtenberg, Shaun Murphy; Robin Garwood

Chairman Ostrom called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

Neal moved approval. Approved.

The chair asked all present to introduce themselves.

#### **Programs & Policies Subcommittee—Dan Herber**

The Committee will have questions about the Mayor's budget on September 23. We are working on a resolution for the next PAC meeting.

Snow Removal: Dan and Phil observed that Public Works regarded the future of the pilot project of last winter as open. A wider application of the Pilot, or another trial, may occur. Discussion followed on PAC's role in creating possibilities.

Dan read the following resolution. Approved.

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee has reviewed the results of the Snow Removal Pilot Project and believes more resources and attention are needed to make it effective. The Pilot Project succeeded in reducing the time within which some unshoveled sidewalks were brought up to code. But it failed to significantly ensure sidewalks in the pilot areas were clear of snow and ice throughout the entire winter. The PAC recommends continuing the pilot project.

The PAC recommends the following to improve the results of snow and ice removal citywide and to improve snow and ice clearance in the pilot areas:

##### **Citywide**

- Conduct a more robust public education campaign informing property owners of their responsibility to clear sidewalks of ice and snow, including use of email, text, and voicemail messages dedicated exclusively to reminding city residents of their responsibility to maintain a snow and ice free sidewalk. These messages should not be merely appended to street snow emergency messages but be standalone messages dedicated to sidewalk clearance.
- Include information regarding the many benefits of keeping sidewalks free from snow and ice in the City's regular communications to residents (e.g., on property assessment or utility notices).
- Utilize multiple media and information distribution formats to increase resident awareness of the availability of sidewalk snow and ice removal help for senior citizens and people with disabilities from community groups, such as the list of such groups currently offered through 311, <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/shovel/>.

##### **Pilot Project Area**

- Include performance measures in the snow and ice removal contract that incentivize clearance within 48 hours of issuance of work order and ensure the highest possible clearance rate and which penalize untimely clearance or low clearance rates.
- Ensure the contractor has the capability to perform snow and ice removal on sidewalks and at corners, including if necessary requirements of availability and use of motorized equipment in lieu of hand shoveling, where hand shoveling proves ineffective.
- Build-in incentives for efficient and effective corner clearance by providing payment for clearance of corners into street right-of-way on blocks where the contractor is already tasked with clearing a deficient sidewalk.
- Ensure that the assessment to the property owner covers the full cost of the use of contractors and the administration of the snow and ice removal program by city staff.
- Engage city inspectors to actively identify unshoveled sidewalks, in addition to the existing complaint-based process. The complaint-based system does not adequately ensure the sidewalk network is properly cleared of snow and ice per City of Minneapolis ordinance.
- Track all noncompliant sidewalks within pilot study area in addition to tracking performance of contractor on work orders issued to adjudge overall effectiveness of pilot within study area.

**Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee—Kathleen Mayell**

The route for the SW Light Rail should be fixed this fall.

Cedar Sidewalk project—Robin Garwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Aide, explained the need. The sidewalk on the west side of Cedar is very narrow, tilts and has trees and signs that obstruct the way. Also, the 5<sup>th</sup> Street semaphore looks like a lamp, and works very slowly. He'd like to see a median here.

Kathleen read the following resolution: The PAC recommends:

Reworking the proposed street layout to include two 10.8' traffic lanes, one 10.8' turning lane, and two 8' parking lanes on either side of Cedar to protect the pedestrian.

Replace the existing boulevard trees on the west side of Cedar.

Approved.

Mike: a 4<sup>th</sup> open house on the Nicollet-Central light rail will be held on Monday, Sept. 9, at 5 PM.

**Update on the City Council Report—Shaun Murphy**

All PAC members are invited to attend, Oct. 22, at 9:30 AM.

**PAC Vacancies—Shaun Murphy**

No North Siders applied for our latest vacancy, so Shaun will fill with the help of the Council.

**Pedestrian Fatality on Olson Memorial Highway**

Happened on July 14, at James & Olson. A man in a wheelchair was killed.

Dan: let's look at Simon Blenski's data on pedestrian-related crashes when he's done gleaning them, with an eye towards future efforts.

**Election of Vice Chair for the Policies & Programs Subcommittee**

Donna expressed an interest in this post. Approved.

**Traffic Patterns in Bangladesh—Julia Tabbut**

Julia spent a month in Bangladesh, and taped street scenes for us to watch.

Neal moved to adjourn, Don seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 5:05 PM.